



Congressman Mike Simpson



E-Newsletter

Volume 1, 2007

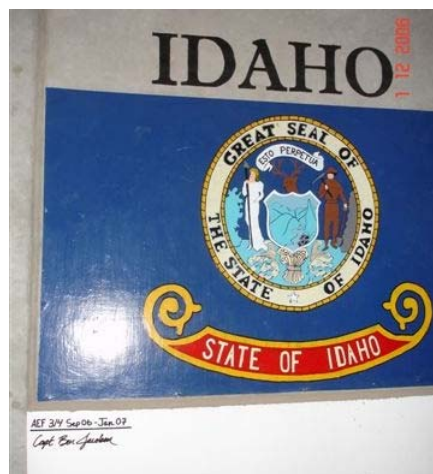
Troops Create "State Street" in Iraq

Message from Mike

"Everyday we hear or read stories about men and women serving in the military. This story has a touch of Idaho, so I wanted to pass it along.

It started when Lieutenant Col Gregory Marston had an idea to display a piece of home while stationed at Sather Air Base, BIAP, Iraq.

In the first 447th AEG staff meeting of AEF 3-4 he announced they would start "State Street" by painting the state flags along the major walkway on the Base, making State Street highly visible. The main goal of this project was to boost morale and to give some positive outlets for people's talent. It was strictly a volunteer program — a way to build



Capt. Jacobson signing his name under the Idaho Flag

Pennsylvania has 39 people stationed at Sather Air Base, and 33 worked in his A-10 Wing so they painted the first flag to get the project started.

Captain Benjamin Jacobson is the only artist from Idaho at this location and took on the task of painting Idaho's Flag by himself. You can see in the photos his amazing work and talent. I'm proud of Capt. Jacobson for representing Idaho in such a distinguished manner.



L. Col. Marston (left) and Capt. Jacobson (right)

L. Col. Marston wanted to get half the flags completed in four months, but because of the excitement it generated and the number of people helping, they will have all 50 states done in a matter of weeks. Each fulltime military resident of Sather can sign their name below their home state.

I'm proud of all the men and women serving our country and am extremely grateful for the sacrifices they make everyday to protect our freedom. Remember to support the troops and pray for their safety." - Congressman Mike Simpson

L. Col. Marston's home state of

Washington, D.C.

1339 Longworth
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202-225-5531
Fax: 202-225-8216

Boise Office

802 West Bannock, Ste 600
Boise, ID 83702
Phone: 208-334-1953
Fax: 208-334-9533

Idaho Falls Office

490 Memorial Drive, Ste 103
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Phone: 208-523-6701
Fax: 208-523-2384

Twin Falls Office

1341 Fillmore #202
Twin Falls, ID 83301
Phone: 208-734-7219
Fax: 208-734-7244

Pocatello Office

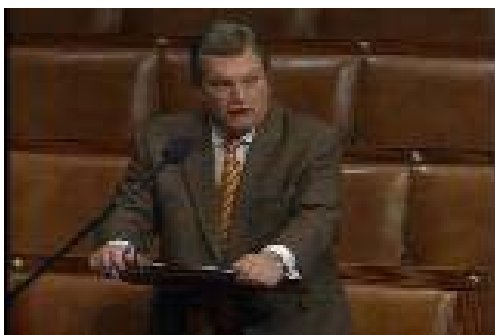
275 S. 5th Ave. #275
Pocatello, ID 83201
Phone: 208-233-2222
Fax: 208-233-0295

Congress Honors Broncos

Simpson's Resolution Honoring BSU

Approved By U.S. House

Washington, D.C. —Today the U.S. House of Representatives joined Congressman Mike Simpson in honoring the Boise State University Broncos football team for winning the 2007 Fiesta Bowl and completing its season as the only undefeated Division 1-A collegiate football team.



Congressman Mike Simpson speaking on the House Floor about BSU—Photo courtesy of CSPAN

House Resolution 43, introduced by Simpson, commends the Bronco football team for its win in one of the greatest games in the history of college football. BSU defeated the University of Oklahoma 43-42 in overtime in the 2007 Fiesta Bowl. H.Res. 43 recognizes the talented BSU players, including Jared Zabransky, Marty Tadman, and Ian Johnson. H.Res. 43 is co-sponsored by Simpson's seatmate, Congressman Bill Sali.

“The Boise State Broncos football team has made Idaho proud, and I am glad that we had the opportunity to recognize them today,” Simpson said. “This is a team made up of determination, talent, and heart. Coach Petersen, his coaching staff and the entire team deserve national recognition of their perfect season.”

“The Boise State-Oklahoma game was one of the greatest in the history of college football. The Broncos richly deserve recognition as national champions,” said Congressman Bill Sali.

“They brought great heart, remarkable skill and resolute determination to every game they played. As a Boise State alum, I couldn't be prouder of this outstanding group of young men and their superb coaching staff.”

The Bronco football team has won the last five consecutive Western Athletic Conference football championships and has been the nation's top scoring Division 1-A football team for the last seven seasons. Head Coach Chris Petersen was recently named 2006 National Coach of the Year.

H.Res. 43 passed by a vote of 415-0 on January 16, 2007.



Coach Petersen after winning the Fiesta Bowl — Photo Courtesy of Boise State

H.R. 43— A Salute to the Broncos

Commending the Boise State University Broncos football team for winning the 2007 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl and completing an undefeated season.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 4, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON (for himself and Mr. SALI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

RESOLUTION

Commending the Boise State Broncos football team for winning the 2007 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl and completing an undefeated season.

Whereas the Broncos won the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, defeating the University of Oklahoma by a score of 43-42 at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona on January 1, 2006;

Whereas the Broncos have now won the last five consecutive Western Athletic Conference Championships;

Whereas the Broncos are the nation's top scoring Division 1-A football team over the last seven seasons with an average of over 42 points per game;

Whereas the Broncos are the nation's 4th winningest Division 1-A football team over the past seven years with a winning percentage of over .850 (75-13).

Whereas, the 2007 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl is widely considered one of the best games in the history of college football;

Whereas the Broncos are one of only two Division 1-A football teams to complete its regular 2006 season undefeated;

Whereas, Head Coach Chris Petersen called some of the most creative, courageous offensive plays in bowl-game history, including the game-saving "hook-and-lateral", game-extending "tailback pass" and the game-winning "Statue of Liberty";

Whereas the Broncos are 5-2 in Division 1-A post-season games;

Whereas quarterback Jared Zabransky was named the Offensive Most Valuable Player of the Fiesta Bowl;

Whereas Jared Zabransky threw for three touchdowns and 262 yards in the Fiesta Bowl, and completed his college career with a record of 33-5 as a starting quarterback;

Whereas Defensive Back Marty Tadman was named the Defensive Most Valuable Player of the Fiesta Bowl;

Whereas Marty Tadman intercepted two Oklahoma passes, including one returned for a touchdown, and had five tackles in the Fiesta Bowl;

Whereas Ian Johnson, one of the nation's most exciting running backs, gained 101 rushing yards, scored one touchdown, and scored the game-winning two point conversion in overtime of the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl;

Whereas the entire Broncos team should be commended for its determination, work-ethic, attitude, and heart;

Whereas the Boise State Broncos are deserving of an opportunity to play for the National Championship;

Whereas the Boise State Broncos are building an impressive legacy of excellence in its football program; and

Whereas the Broncos have brought great honor to themselves, their university, the City of Boise, and the State of Idaho:
Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives--

- (1) commends the Boise State Broncos football team for winning the 2007 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl; and
- (2) congratulates the team for completing an undefeated, 13-0 season.

Simpson Votes to Cut Student Loan Interest Rates in Half

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Mike Simpson supported H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act of 2007. H.R. 5 would cut the current interest rates on subsidized undergraduate student loans in half.

“College is expensive and getting more so each year,” said Simpson. “By lowering the fixed interest rate on subsidized student loans we will ease the financial burden on young people entering the workforce, establishing careers and starting families. It’s the right thing to do.”

With college costs on the rise, more students have to take out greater loans to cover their tuition and other college costs, while incurring re-

cord student debt. In 2003-04, the median student debt borrowed to finance a bachelor's degree was \$19,300.

Federal student loan programs provide critical access to postsecondary education to low and middle-income students and their families. H.R. 5 will phase in interest rate cuts over five years for undergraduate borrowers of new subsidized student loans from a fixed rate of 6.8 percent to a fixed rate of 3.4 percent.



SIMPSON WORKING TO HELP RURAL VETERANS

Idaho Congressman offers legislation to improve access to medical care for rural veterans

WASHINGTON, D.C. -Idaho Congressmen Mike Simpson joined a number of his colleagues in becoming an original cosponsor of legislation that will provide better access to medical care for rural veterans.



HR 315, The “HEALTHY Vets Act”, will allow those veterans in rural areas who live a significant distance from the nearest VA medical facility to contract with a local doctor on a fee-basis. Veterans living in sparsely populated rural areas who are upwards of 75 miles from the nearest VA would be eligible based on local population density. This will prevent rural veterans from having to travel great distances to visit the VA center and allow them instead to be able to receive primary health care in their own community.

Simpson stressed the importance of this legislation to veterans who are unable to travel long distances for medical care. “Under the current system, many of Idaho’s rural veterans have to travel unreasonable distances to visit their nearest VA medical facility,”

Simpson said. “Many of our veterans are elderly and unable to make the trip on a regular basis. This bill will allow them to receive the preventive medical attention they need, in their own community.”

Introduced by Representative Stevan Pearce (NM-2), the HEALTHY Vets Act has 9 cosponsors and is awaiting action before the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

Weekly Website

Visit:

**<http://www.kidshealth.org/>
To learn more about kids and
teen health**